

**MID-KAWEAH GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**MINUTES**

February 4, 2025 – 3:00 PM

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Aaron Oliver, Geoffrey Vanden Heuvel, Greg Collins, Joe Machado, Jordan Leal, Phil Mirwald, Richard Garcia, Robert Saenz

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Eric Correia, Jessi Snyder

**GSA MEMBER STAFF PRESENT:** Aaron Fukuda, James Fisher, Diana Zegarra

**PUBLIC ATTENDEES:** Luis Paniagua, John Gonzalez, Jace Leal, Aaron Henderson, Justin Murray, Meg Harper

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

In the absence of both Advisory Committee Chair representatives, Mr. Fukuda called the meeting to order at 3:05 PM.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Fukuda called for public comments. Mr. Paniagua introduced himself to the Committee as a new Community Education Specialist for Tulare & Kings County under the UC Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education Program. The Committee welcomed Mr. Paniagua to the Mid-Kaweah GSA. [Mr. Paniagua's email is [lcpaniagua@ucanr.edu](mailto:lcpaniagua@ucanr.edu)]

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The last meeting minutes were not distributed on time, so Mr. Fukuda moved to postpone the approval of minutes for the next meeting.

4. **KAWEAH SUBBASIN AND MID-KAWEAH GSA UPDATES**

Mr. Fukuda gave a quick summary of the Federal Order to release channel capacity flow water from Lake Kaweah. In conclusion, the Federal Order was shut down, but not without releasing water from Lake Kaweah that remained in the Tulare County area.

Mr. Fukuda gave a summary of the Probationary Status cancellation for the Kaweah Subbasin. The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) told Kaweah Subbasin managers that they did not see any red flags in their red flag review, and they would complete their full review of the Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSP) by May or June 2025.

Mr. Fukuda gave an update on priorities for 2025. Well Inventory, Well Registration, Water Accounting Framework, Subsidence Education, and collecting Water Quality samples are some of the up & coming actions coming to the Mid-Kaweah GSA. Water quality sampling will start in March 2025. The advisory committee suggested the well registration and subsidence education be merged to give farmers a better understanding of why we are doing this and how does this affect me. The Mid-Kaweah GSA consultants that built the GSP, Montgomery & Associates, created a web platform for well registration, and the web platform should be ready by March 2025.

Mr. Fukuda gave an update on the two cities, Visalia and Tulare, beginning to create an Urban Groundwater Plan to address the cone of depression under their footprint. The Mid-Kaweah GSA is being included in those Plan discussions.

5. EMERGENCY ORDINANCE POLICY UPDATES

Mr. Fisher gave an update on fallowed field applications. Any fallow fields will override the existing ET on the fallow field(s) and replace it with an ET value of 80% of precipitation resulting in a net consumptive use of 0 AF/acre.

Mr. Fisher proposed a solution to farming operations that are split by GSA boundary lines. The proposed solution was to allow the Mid-Kaweah GSA Board to approve of case-by-case groundwater credit transfers. The Advisory Committee did not have any objections.

Mr. Fisher proposed a solution to a situation where groundwater credits that were left behind on a parcel and the parcel would be converting into non-ag. The proposed solution was that Mid-Kaweah GSA would pay the landowner for the GSA value of the remaining credits. The Advisory Committee did not have any objections.

6. WATER YEAR 2025 INVOICE TIMELINE UPDATE

Miss Zegarra gave an update on the Invoices Timeline for 2025. The 2025 Invoice Timeline lays out the beginning date that invoices will be mailed out to the date that invoices will be due. Mid-Kaweah GSA will begin the process of having a stricter timeline and a firm due date in 2025. Mr. Fukuda told the Advisory Committee that the purpose for the firm deadline was due to auditing purposes.

Mr. Fukuda also mentioned the Mid-Kaweah GSA will be releasing a new website incredibly soon.

7. COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS, UPDATES, OR OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

No members came forward.

8. ADJOURN

Mr. Fukuda adjourned the meeting at 4:45 PM.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
GSA Board Secretary

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Advisory Committee Chair